

Submitter: Lynne Haroun

On Behalf of:

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB88

Dear Chair Sollman and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment:

My name is Lynne Haroun and I live in Sunriver, Oregon. I write today to express my support for SB 88. When I read the title and text of SB 88, I was shocked to learn that electric and gas companies in Oregon can legally recover from ratepayers the “costs or expenses associated with advertising, political influence, litigation, penalties or fines and certain compensation.” Previously, I had understood that I was paying for electricity and gas, and the costs associated with their delivery. The fact that I am paying for the noted additional costs and expenses is especially troubling given that I have not expressly given permission to use my payments for these activities, and in fact, I do not support the advertising, political positions, or litigation that utility companies bring forward.

Ratepayers should not be paying for activities that are not required for the provision of the cleanest possible energy, which is also both affordable and reliable. For many Oregonians, the cost of home energy represents a substantial burden, yet investor-owned companies maximize profits, not affordability to ratepayers. We do not have the option of selecting the company that offers the best rates.

In the interest of taking every step to slow ever-increasing gas and electricity rates and stopping the use of ratepayer dollars for activities they should not be paying for, I urge you to pass SB 88.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynne Haroun MPH  
Sunriver, OR